

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEAVE NO SAILOR BEHIND

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution calling on the Department of Defense, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation to support a mission to recover the remains of three naval aviators in Antarctica.

On December 30, 1946, a Navy aircraft participating in Operation Highjump over Antarctica crashed, killing three of the nine on board. Among those killed in the crash of the "George One," as the seaplane was known, was Radioman Wendell Hendersin, the brother of Betty Jean Spencer of Mundelein, Illinois.

Along with the other casualties, Hendersin was buried in a common grave near the crash site. Although the survivors held a small service, Hendersin never received a proper burial.

After 2 weeks stranded on the ice, the survivors were rescued, but the remains of the three Americans were never recovered. At the time, servicemembers killed overseas were usually buried abroad. Due to the risks involved at the time, the Navy decided against undertaking a recovery mission. In the 61 years that have passed, Department of Defense policy changed and technology now makes a recovery operation likely to succeed at lower risk.

Thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Geological Survey, the location of the George One is known. The USGS estimates that the wreckage is under about 165 feet of ice. With the location known and the technology in place to launch a successful recovery mission, the time has come to bring these brave naval aviators home.

PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H. RES. 979, RECOMMENDING THAT HARRIET MIERS AND JOSHUA BOLTEN BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS, AND ADOPTION OF H. RES. 980. AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INITIATE OR INTERVENE IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS TO ENFORCE CERTAIN SUBPOENAS

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Many Americans are frustrated and angry because they believe that this administration is not being held to account for its actions. Now, after 7 years, much of the public turns this frustration at Congress because it is the branch with the responsibility for oversight.

Last year, the House Judiciary Committee undertook a very serious investigation into allegations that a number of key law enforcement officers in our country—United States attorneys—were being fired for their unwillingness to respond to political pressure in various cases. This led to information about other actions that were clearly politicizing the work of the Department of Justice. You will hear people on the other side talk about the investigation wasting time. This was no fishing expedition. The fact is that the revelations from this investigation led to the resignation of the Attorney General of the United States.

We are here today because this administration responded to a legitimate investigation—the exercise of our oversight duty—by stonewalling in the extreme. The disrespect shown to this body has been stunning, culminating in the fact that when the committee subpoenaed the testimony of Harriet Miers, neither she nor her attorney bothered to even show up to assert the privilege she claimed.

To justify the administration's behavior, the President has asserted an astonishingly broad theory of executive privilege which claims that any document or information from any individual who has ever worked for the President is covered and therefore immune from being compelled to testify before Congress. This view of executive privilege may be unprecedented in our history, and if accepted, it would chill any meaningful oversight of the executive branch and grant near limitless power to the President to hide information from Congress, the courts, and the American people.

The utter contempt shown by this administration toward Congress and its constitutional duties is unacceptable, and to permit these actions to stand unchallenged would be an abrogation of our constitutional responsibility.

Approving these contempt resolutions would send a strong message to the administration that Congress will not be ignored. At the end of the day, whether civil or criminal action is successful, our most important goal should be getting to the truth.

If we do not respond to the administration's disregard of the legislative branch, we risk rendering permanent damage to our own institution and to this country's cherished system of checks and balances. Failure to act will also set a dangerous precedent that future administrations will almost assuredly seek to exploit. To my colleagues on the other side who are trying to dismiss these resolutions as partisan—I urge you not to be shortsighted. This is not a partisan issue. It is a matter that strikes at the heart of our democracy and the checks and balances on which it depends.

Congress has been eminently patient in awaiting the President to provide information on the U.S. attorneys scandal. Yet, rather than work with us to get to the bottom of wrongdoing in his administration, the President has continued his pattern of actively hiding possible evidence of illegal behavior by high-ranking officials in his Government and stonewalling any inquiries to get to the truth. Because it is each Member's very responsibility

to support and defend the Constitution, we have absolutely no other choice than to pursue this action against the President's Chief of Staff and his former chief legal counsel. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

HONORING FLINT SCOTTISH BAND

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Flint Scottish Pipe Band. The Flint Scottish Pipe Band has won several competitions in the United States and Canada over the past year and will celebrate their victories at the annual Ceilidh on February 16, in Davison, Michigan. The Ceilidh will feature traditional music and Scottish food.

Scottish immigrants to the Flint, Michigan, area founded the Flint Scottish Pipe Band in 1916. The Band's Gaelic motto is "Cuidich 'n Rìgh" which means, "Help the King." Their emblem is the stag's head of the MacKenzie Seaforth Highlanders. Composed of both pipes and drums the band is under the direction of Pipe Major Dennis Lowe and Drum Sergeant Teddy Barr.

In 2007, the Flint Scottish Pipe Band won the U.S. championship in grade 5, the Canadian championship in grade 5, the southern U.S. championship in grade 5, and they are the eastern U.S. champions in grade 5. Over the past season the pipe section took first place 9 times, the mid section took first place 3 times, and the drum section swept first place in all competitions.

The members of the Flint Scottish Pipe Band gather every Thursday in Flint to practice and they are preparing to travel to Scotland in 2009 to compete in the world championships. Their membership comes from all over Michigan and is open to persons with a love for the traditional pipe and drum music of Scotland.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the Flint Scottish Pipe Band for their achievements over the past year. I wish them the best success in the upcoming competitions and the world championships. They are to be commended for preserving the traditions of Scotland in the heart of Michigan and bringing the music of the pipes and drums to thousands.

HONORING POTEET HIGH SCHOOL'S AWARD WINNING BANDS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Poteet High School Marching Band for winning the 2007 UIL Class

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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